

SCAAC Meeting Minutes

(School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council)

July 7, 1998
State Board Room

SCAAC Agenda

#	Agenda Items	Presenters
1.	Meeting Minutes	Anne Keene
2.	Highly Skilled Educators	Bob Lumsden
3.	Classification for Accountability	Cindy Owen
4.	School Report Card	Angela Wilkins / Laura Graham
5.	Next Meeting Dates	Anne Keene
Adjournment		

1. Meeting Minutes

Anne Keene

Chairperson Anne Keene called the Council into session at 8:45 a.m. and Jon Frederick called the roll. The following Council members were present:

Jon Akers	Anne Keene	Bob Sexton	John Stephens
Suzanne Guyer	Benny Lile	Linda Sheffield	Maynard Thomas
Maxie Johnson	Gary Mielcarek	Sharon Solomon	

Chairperson Anne Keene outlined the work before the Council for the session, including considerations on the presentation by David Allen on the Highly Skilled Educators matrix of recommendations, school report card issues, and accountability model designs.

The Chair complimented the Council members for their commitment and focus during all the discussions on difficult, yet significant issues relative to House Bill 53.

2. Highly Skilled Educators

Bob Lumsden

SCAAC Discussion/Questions:

The Council discussed the Highly Skilled Educators presentation from the previous evening's agenda. John Stephens suggested one strategy to improve teaching and learning would be to use Highly Skilled Educators to present workshops modeling best practices, preferably with as little interruption as possible to the schools' basic schedules.

Bob Sexton questioned funding limits for Highly Skilled Educators and how the work of improving teaching and learning might be effectively accomplished; he asked if there could be any use of "rewards" to interface with the Highly Skilled Educators' funding? Dr. Cody clarified that School Improvement Funds were allocated by means of a grant process; the Highly Skilled Educators funds run until the year 2000.

Suzanne Guyer asked that if score reports come in September would there be some turn around problem with assurance that appropriate support and assistance can be implemented in a practical and useful manner? Benny Lile suggested setting up summer professional development based on the September reports so that an improvement plan could be designed and used.

The issue of whether a one year limit for an Highly Skilled Educators is an adequate period for significant assistance was raised. Maynard Thomas felt that one year was not enough time for thorough assistance and follow-up. Sue Rigney expressed her opinion that assistance needs to be provided over the long haul, so that needs can be matched to the strengths of the Highly Skilled Educators available.

The following summarizes the Council members' questions and opinions on the Highly Skilled Educators issues:

Maxie Johnson stated that if correct, effective steps are followed then one year might well be adequate, depending on how much in decline a school might be.

Linda Sheffield asked if Highly Skilled Educators should serve as an empowering agent to build capacity in leadership and teaching skills. Will there be adequate numbers of Highly Skilled Educators--that is a real concern?

John Stephens expressed his opinion that a cadre of excellent teachers might be trained to assist in the Highly Skilled Educators work to create a broader base of expert assistance.

The second issue concerning Highly Skilled Educators was the desire to have a 1:1 ratio of Highly Skilled Educators per school with considerations of degree of decline or low academic growth indices. Council members generally agreed that a low ratio was most desirable since one of the existing problems under the old DE program was how thinly spread the DE became as more schools required assistance. Depending on the

size of the schools in question, a ratio of 2:1 might be acceptable.

The third issue concerning the Highly Skilled Educators program dealt with eligibility. What factors would come into play--low indices? Low rates of progress? Will there be a way to prioritize which schools will receive assistance through the program?

Maxie Johnson asked why would a school with a relatively high index of progress be assigned an Highly Skilled Educators? Perhaps a drastic or dramatic drop might demonstrate a need for assistance to a school which had previously been successful or proficient.

Bob Lumsden shared that the greatest concern in his department is the ratio question; how to cope with a high or unfavorably high ratio of Highly Skilled Educators to schools.

Bob Sexton asked when or by what date must the Council have its recommendations to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)?

After some discussion, it would seem that the KBE would need the recommendations by the September meeting.

Bob Sexton suggested that the Council draw up a specific work plan for the next year to cope with the high priority issues and decisions before the Council. He suggested that at this time the Council might work more effectively through some sort of subcommittee format or by having experts brought in to discuss and advise on specific issues.

Gene Wilhoit focused attention on the central question of what accountability model the Council would ultimately recommend. He suggested that the next task the Council might explore would be several models of accountability.

Linda Sheffield voiced her concern that high achieving schools not be overlooked in any Highly Skilled Educators program options. In many cases, she feels that complacency becomes a factor, and this in turn, works against the schools moving ahead and achieving at their potential.

Jon Akers reiterated Bob Sexton's concern and desire for the Council to lay out a long-range work plan. Chairperson Anne Keene suggested that the Council needs to consider issues and be prepared to work on the year-long work plan.

Linda Sheffield offered her support to use School Improvement Funds to go toward some research and development of tools which would assist schools in making improvements.

Bob Lumsden discussed the possibilities of using some of the 25% School Council Improvement Funds for continued research and development toward efforts to improve student learning; all schools should be beneficiaries of these efforts. Options for assisting schools at all levels of achievement were discussed including the Kentucky Leadership Academy and development of cadres of consultants.

3. Classification for Accountability

Cindy Owen

The fourth issue discussed dealt with concerns about determining the appropriateness of a school's classification for accountability. Cindy Owen summarized current appeals processes for schools who wish to challenge their classification.

Discussion followed on the connection between the scholastic audit and appropriate assistance. The question seems focused on what the process would be and what the Council needs to recommend or discuss concerning the audit.

General discussion on the specific meaning and intent of House Bill 53's scholastic audit language continued without any recommendation.

Chairperson Anne Keene recessed the Council for a break at 10:12 a.m. She announced that the school report card would be discussed following the break.

Anne Keene reconvened the Council at 10:45 a.m. The quorum was noted with eleven Council members present.

4. School Report Card

**Angela Wilkins /
Laura Graham**

Angela Wilkins and Laura Graham were introduced to discuss with the Council information on the school report card referenced in House Bill 53. Gene Wilhoit's staff had researched multiple sources including report cards from other states. Each Council member received a blue folder with parts of the presentation and example report cards included. Angela Wilkins led the Council through the example report card item by item with commentary and rationale for the major segments of the report card examples.

SCAAC Discussion/Questions:

John Stephens: asked about the use of numbers and percentages on the report cards which might be influenced by the size of the school either in a negative or positive manner.

It was determined that John's concerns should be further explored.

Bob Sexton suggested that perhaps it would be desirable to have "real" student work on display as well as having the written documents such as the examples provided; this might be accomplished during an open school or parent visitation session.

Sue Rigney suggested that the report card contain some information regarding Kentucky standards.

Jon Akers addressed concerns about the section of the sample report card labeled as "student violations;" there would need to be some consistency and consideration of the legal ramifications of including such information; the example he used was the use of the word "assault" as a category of student violation.

Anne Keene focused on the audience for the school report card; she believes the public may not want so many numbers but might instead prefer some graphics or more visually appealing format; she also expressed concern about the section on school learning environment in the draft report card, specifically the two elements concerning how school consolidated planning and student discipline and behavior codes are communicated to parents and to the public.

Angela Wilkins and Laura Graham took notes of all suggestions from the Council.

John Stephens expressed caution that supplying too much information on the report card would be burdensome and require more paperwork; he recommended a more concise document.

Laura Graham remarked that the committee worked to present as many models and options as possible which would, at the minimum, include the three components referenced directly in House Bill 53.

What level of detail is desirable in the report card; what would parents find useful and adequate?

Bob Sexton suggested using more user-friendly charts and graphs in agreement with Anne Keene's suggestion.

Maynard Thomas expressed concern about the emphasis on the Gifted and Talented, Advanced Placement and Governor's Scholars components; he feels that the majority of students are not well represented in the draft report card's features.

Sharon Solomon suggested that there is a need to use numbers and percentages along with graphs for appeal to parents who might feel intimidated by too many charts and graphs.

Laura Graham explained that there was parental involvement in the design and review of the draft document.

Anne Keene encourage Council members to review and research what options are possible; the internet is one means to do research. She also encouraged staff to get as much local and field response and input as possible on the school report card.

The Council discussed possible meeting dates and agenda items. The concerns to draw up a one year work plan and the idea to form subcommittees need further discussion at future meetings. At the next meeting the Council needs to review as many accountability models as possible and prepare to make recommendations.

Sharon Solomon raised the concern about what would happen in the cases of Council members who were not attending meetings, noting that some members had not attended any working sessions after May 12; Maynard Thomas agreed with Sharon that some determination needed to be made regarding this issue.

Concerns included how members not attending could contribute to the Council's efforts. It was noted that all Council members do receive the notices of meetings and any mailings that go out from the staff at KDE including draft minutes of the meetings or correction and approval. It was suggested that the Governor's office should receive a report on the attendance of Council members and have some input in the matter.

SCAAC Motion:

Bob Sexton moved that Chairperson Anne Keene report to the Governor's office the attendance record and other activities of the Council and ask for guidance in this matter. The motion was seconded by Maynard Thomas. A voice vote carried the motion without opposition.

Index cards were handed out for Council members to write down any questions or issues that they now wish considered or answered. Also disseminated were two documents; one on inclusion of special populations (703 KAR: 4:120), and the second a section of the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

5. Next Meeting Dates

Anne Keene

July 17th and 30th were set as the next meeting dates.

Adjournment

SCAAC Motion:

Jon Akers moved the Council adjourn, Suzanne Guyer seconded the motion; the motion carried and Chairperson Anne Keene adjourned the meeting.